

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0024] FIG. 1 is a block diagram depicting an exemplary business organization's organizational structure 100 for generating a report when employing a conventional approach for meeting multiple reporting requirements. The business organization may be any type of business organization such as a banking/financial or a loan company. The business organization having source sites 102 to 112. The source sites 102 to 112 may represent offices, subsidiaries, divisions, business units, and the like of an organization. The source sites 102 to 112 may maintain disparate source data models, which are structured according to local reporting needs. The source sites 102 to 112 may be located in foreign locations and/or offer different products and services. The data models at each of the source sites 102 to 112 may not be compatible because their reporting requirements are distinct or their local needs, such as regulatory and/or managerial requirements, are specific to the source site. For example, the purpose of a source data model associated with a particular source site may be for providing financial reporting that must be formatted according to national Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") while other source data models associated with other source sites may be for non-financial purposes such as for internal management reporting requirements. Each of the source data models may have differing dimensions and dimension values (which will be discussed below). As a result, data that originate from each of the source data models are formatted differently and may be incompatible for purposes of integration and processing. The sources 102 to 112 may be in communication with consolidation systems 114 and 116. The consolidation systems 114

to 116 may integrate and process the data from sources 102 to 112. The consolidation systems 114 to 116 may maintain their own data models that are generated by integrating and processing data from the source sites 102 to 112. The data from source sites may also go through one or more sub-systems 118 ~~[[and]]~~ to 122 before being used in a variety of reports. Sources 102 to 112 may also directly generate reports. As with many businesses, in this exemplary organization, a central office 124 oversees the entire business operation. The central office ~~[[120.]]~~ 124 may maintain its own "centralized" or "target" data model[s]. Each model may be associated with a report. The target data model[s] may be structured and formatted to meet the associated report's formatting and structural requirements. Each target data model will typically be structured such that it meets the requirements of its corresponding report. In certain sectors of the business world, such as banking and financing, certain data models are referred to as "charts of accounts."

[0026] The data model development tool (herein "the development tool") according to one embodiment of the present invention assists in the creation and maintenance of centralized (i.e., target) data model[s]. The development tool further simplifies data processing and data integration for generating reports in complex organizational structures. FIG. 2 is a block diagram depicting an exemplary business organization that has employed the development tool to create a new organizational structure 200, which accommodates all the reporting needs of the entire business organization. The development tool, according to the present invention, can facilitate the development and maintenance of such organizational structure. In this organizational structure 200, the use of the development tool allows the business to forego the need

for sub-systems in order to process and/or consolidate data. Thus, there are no consolidation systems or subsystems because the data associated with source data model[s] at each source sites 202 to 212 may be directly mapped to the target data model at the central office 220. Since each of the source sites 202 to 212 directly interfaces with the central office 220 (i.e., target data model[s]), the mapping process as well as the gap bridging process may be directly monitor by those at that central location. Reports may be generated both locally at the source sites 202 to 212 and/or at the central location 220 220. Gaps may also be bridged at source sites 202 to 212 or at the central location 220.